

# AMERICAN LEGAL RESEARCH

This guide is a checklist of sources (print and electronic) of American law that are available for the use of researchers at the Osgoode Hall Law School Library. The library currently relies mostly on electronic sources as many of the print subscriptions have been discontinued.

## **PRIMARY RESOURCES**

**CONSTITUTION** – The Constitution of the United States of America and those of all the 50 states and 1 district are available in the following databases:

- [Constitutions of the Countries of the World Online](#) (Access for York University faculty and students only, this can be accessed through eResources)
- [Cornell Legal Information Institute](#)
- [LexisNexis/Quicklaw](#) (Access for Osgoode Hall Law School faculty and students only)
- [LexisNexis Academic](#) (Access for York University faculty and students only, this can be accessed through eResources)
- [Westlaw Canada](#) (Access for Osgoode Hall Law School faculty and students only)

## **STATUTES AND REGULATIONS**

All federal and state statutes, codes and regulations for all the 50 states and 1 district are available in LexisNexis Academic, LexisNexis/Quicklaw and WestlawCanada. The United States Code and U. S. Statutes at Large are available in HeinOnline.

See Figs 1, 2, & 3 on how to research on these databases.

- [GPO Access](#)
- [LexisNexis/Quicklaw](#) (Access for Osgoode Hall Law School faculty and students only)
- [LexisNexis Academic](#) (Access for York University faculty and students only, this can be accessed through eResources)
- [Westlaw CANADA](#) (Access for Osgoode Hall Law School faculty and students only)
- [HeinOnline US Statutes at Large](#) 1789 – 2006
- [HeinOnline Subject Compilations of State Laws](#) 1960 – 2008
- [Thomas](#) - Bills, Public Laws

## **CITATORS**

Shepards United States Citations Lexis Nexis/Quicklaw (Access for Osgoode Hall Law School faculty and students only)

## **CASELAW**

Full text cases of the U.S Supreme Court, State Supreme Courts, Federal Courts of Appeal, Federal and State District Courts, County Courts and Specialized Courts are available in these databases:

- [BNA Online](#)(Access limited to Osgoode faculty and students only)
- [HeinOnline](#)(Access for York University faculty and students only, check eResources (Law))
- [LexisNexis/Quicklaw](#)(Access for Osgoode Hall Law School faculty and students only)

- [LexisNexis Academic](#)(Access for York University faculty and students only, this can be accessed through eResources)
- [Westlaw CANADA](#)(Access for Osgoode Hall Law School faculty and students only)

## **SECONDARY RESOURCES**

### **ENCYCLOPEDIA S & DIGESTS**

- American Jurisprudence (2d) LexisNexis Academic, Westlaw CANADA

### **DICTIONARIES**

- Ballentine's Law Dictionary 3<sup>rd</sup> LexisNexis Academic
- Black's Law Dictionary, 8<sup>th</sup> Westlaw CANADA
- Dahl's French-English Law Dictionary LexisNexis Academic
- Dahl's Spanish-English Law Dictionary LexisNexis Academic
- A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage LexisNexis Academic
- Modern Dictionary for the Legal Profession LexisNexis Academic
- [Wex](#)

### **CITATION GUIDES**

- *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* 18<sup>th</sup> ed., Cambridge, MA: Harvard Law Review Association, 2000. [KF 245 H3 2005](#)
- *The University of Chicago Manual of Legal Citation* , New York: Lawyers Co-op, 1989 [KF 245 U55 1989](#)
- *ALWD citation manual : a professional system of citation*, Association of Legal Writing Directors and Darley Dickerson, New York: Aspen Publishers, 2006 [KF 245 A45 2006](#)

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

- *Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., Buffalo, N.Y.: Hein, 2001. [KF 246 B46 2001](#) Also available in LexisNexis Academic
- Raistrick, Donald *Index to Legal Citations and Abbreviations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., London: Bowker/Saur, 1993 [KF 246 R24 2008](#)
- [Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations](#)
- [Abbreviations and Acronyms of the U.S. Government](#) Indiana-Purdue University Library, Indianapolis

### **BOOKS AND TREATISES**

The Law Library collection includes a wide variety of materials on different subject areas. If not in the collection, the library will make interlibrary loan requests from the nearest library for Osgoode Hall Law School faculty and students.

### **PERIODICAL INDEXES**

- [LegalTrac](#), covers from 1980 to date. Available on [eResources Law](#) page on the Law Library website.
- [Index to Legal Periodicals](#). Covers 1980 to date. Available through [eResources Law](#) page on the Law Library website

- [Current Index to Legal Periodicals](#). . Electronic access available from [eResources Law](#) page on the Law Library website. Library keeps current year only in print.
- [Index to Periodical Articles related to Law](#). Electronic access available through HeinOnline on the [eResources Law](#) page on the Law Library website.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

The Library has in its collection a wide variety of American legal journals in print. These can be found on the Ground floor of the library. HeinOnline is the main electronic resource for legal journals. This is listed on the [eResources Law](#) page on the Law Library website.

Journals are listed alphabetically in HeinOnline. You are also able to retrieve journal articles by typing in the name of the journal in eResources from the library catalogue.

LexisNexis Academic, LexisNexis/Quicklaw and Westlaw CANADA give access to a wide range of US Law Reviews and Journals.

## RESEARCH GUIDES

A number of research guides have been prepared by professional legal librarians and researchers but the following are recommended amongst others:

- [United States Law Research Guides](#) – Harvard Law School Library
- [Research Guide for U. S. Jurisdictions](#) – Georgetown Law Library
- [Cornell Legal Information Institute](#) – Cornell University
- [A Guide to the U. S. Federal Legal System Web-based Public Accessible Sources](#) (GloboLex)
- [Guide to Law Online](#) (Law Library of Congress)
- Cohen, Morris L., Robert C. Berring and Kent C. Olson, *How to Find the Law*, 9th ed. St. Paul, Minn.: West, 1989 [KF 240 H6 1989](#)
- Berring, Robert C. and Elizabeth Edinger, *Finding the Law*, 11th ed., St. Paul, Minn.: West, 1999 [KF 240 C47 2005](#)
- Cohen, Morris L., *Legal Research in a Nutshell*, 9th ed. St Paul, Minn.: Thomson/West, 2007 [KF 240 C6 2007](#)
- Lomio, Paul and Spang-Hanssen, *Legal Research Methods in the U.S. & Europe*, 2nd ed., Copenhagen: DJØF Publishing, [2009 K 85 L66 2009](#)
- Mersky, Roy M. and Donald J. Dunn, *Legal Research Illustrated, an abridgment of Fundamentals of Legal Research*, 8th ed., New York: Foundation Press, 2002 [KF240 J342 2002](#)
- Olson, Kent C. and Robert C. Berring, *Practical Approaches to Legal Research*, New York, London: Haworth Press, 1988 [KF 240 O37 1988](#)
- Wren, Christopher G. and Jill Robinson Wren, *The Legal Research Manual*, 2d ed. Madison, Wis.: A-R Editions, 1986 [KF 240 W7 1986](#)

## SEARCH ENGINES

- [Findlaw](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)

The following are screenshots and instructions on how to access US materials in LexisNexis Academic & LexisNexis/Quicklaw and WestlawCanada:

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis Quicklaw Source Directory interface. The browser title is "LexisNexis® Quicklaw™: Source Directory - Mozilla Firefox". The URL is "http://www.lexisnexis.com/ca/legal/srcsel/sourceDirectory.do?rand=12469779352178srcDirSubTab=BROWSE&srcDirKey=0\_T6915073772&origin=SRCDiff". The page has a navigation bar with "Search", "Practice Areas", "Source Directory", and "History & Alerts". Below this is a "Browse Sources" section with filters for "1. By" (Publication Type, Area of Law, News & Business, Industry) and "2. Filter by:" (Country: United States, All Regions; Topics: All Topics). A "Find a Source" box is on the right. The main content area shows a "Trail: Publication Type" section with a list of categories: Administrative Boards & Tribunals, Cases, Commentary, Constitutions, Court Materials & Jury Instructions, Forms & Precedents, Intellectual Property Records, Legal Indices & Tables, Legal News, News, Professional & Educational Materials, Reference, Treaties & International Agreements, Administrative Materials & Regulations, Citators & Digests, Companies & Organizations, Country & Region Reports, Dictionaries, Industries & Markets, Law Directories, Legal Journals, Legislation (Legislative Bills, Legislative Histories, Statutes, More...), People, and Public Records. A "Key" section indicates that a folder icon or link leads to the folder's sources. The footer includes the LexisNexis logo and copyright information for LexisNexis Canada Inc. (2009).

Make sure you select United States in the Country drop down box.

In LexisNexis/Quicklaw or LexisNexis Academic, select Source Directory and you will folders for Cases, Legislation, Constitutions, Legal Journals and materials of Administrative Boards & Tribunals.

Figure 1 LexisNexis

Westlaw.CANADA

Database Directory

Search the Westlaw Directory:

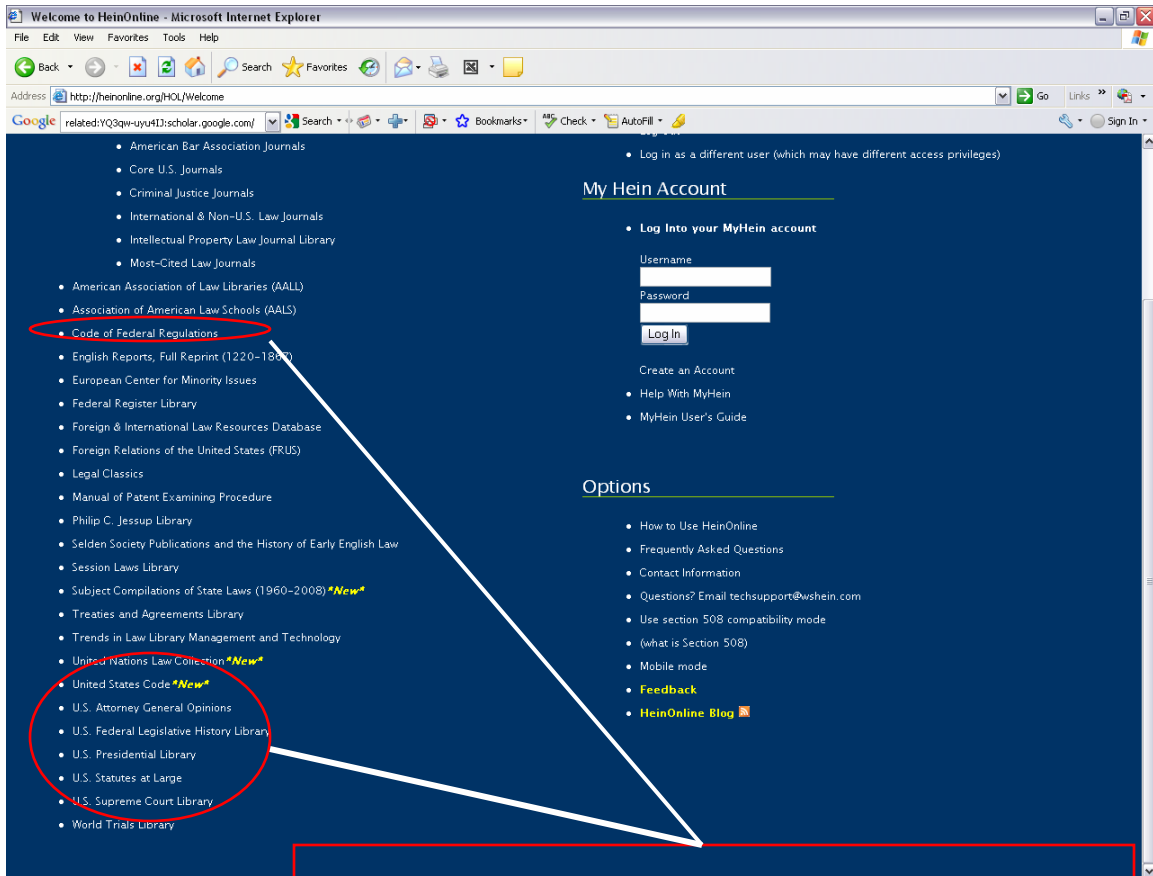
Search

**Westlaw**

**International Subscriptions**

**Select Westlaw and under International Subscriptions select US Primary or US Premier for United States Federal & State cases, statutes and constitution.**

**Figure 2 Westlaw CANADA**



**Figure 3 HeinOnline**

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Updated November 2009.**